

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, like the dawn of a new day we should all be pleased that the President has finally come around to seeing the Republican point of view that we should not spend one penny on other government programs from our Social Security trust fund. At the beginning of this year, the President wanted to spend billions of Social Security tax dollars on some big government programs, and I think today is real progress. However, I am concerned that instead of helping us cut bloated Federal bureaucracies to balance the Federal budget, the President wants to increase taxes on working Americans.

Mr. Speaker, we know that the American people are taxed enough. It has only been through our hard work that the Federal budget is now balanced. There is no reason for us to raise one penny on the backs of lower and middle income families to pay for bigger Federal Government. That would be wrong for our hardworking families and for America. I urge the Democratic leadership to drop their plans to raise taxes on working Americans and join us in a bipartisan effort to balance the budget without using Social Security.

I yield back the balance of my time and the President's proposal to raise taxes on Americans.

REGARDING H.R. 2260, PAIN RELIEF PROMOTION ACT

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. "Do no harm" is a tenet that underlies the practice of medicine in America. But despite the system we have, the great system for training, licensure, the safeguards that are built in, occasionally someone incompetent, or in this case a group of people totally unqualified in the practice of medicine, does harm to an individual patient or a group of patients.

Today, the United States Congress wishes under the leadership of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) to irrevocably change end-of-life pain care in America. On the one hand the bill that will come up today says you can aggressively treat pain at the end of life even if it causes death, but the other section of the bill says if a death results in the aggressive management of pain, the Drug Enforcement Administration, that well-known bastion of medical lore, will determine the intent of the physician who provided that prescription after the fact. This is an extraordinary intrusion not only into States' rights but into the practice of medicine. Inserting the Drug Enforcement Administration into the patient-doctor relationship is outrageous and it will set back pain management for decades in this country.

LOCKBOX HELD HOSTAGE

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, if you turn on the television networks tonight, you will see a new broadcast season under way. There are new shows and new stars on old shows. TV fans had a long wait for a new season, more than 4 months of summer reruns. American seniors have had a long wait as well, a long wait for Congress to implement the lockbox protection for their Social Security. This body passed the lockbox bill on May 26, 153 days ago. Since that time, the other body has failed to act. Every attempt to bring the Social Security lockbox up for a vote has fallen victim to a filibuster threat. For 140 days, the minority party in the other body has held the lockbox bill hostage. That is long enough. This year's fight to stop the raid on Social Security proves our seniors need and deserve lockbox protection for their Social Security. Let us free the Social Security lockbox bill. One hundred forty days held hostage is long enough.

HURRICANE FLOYD

(Mrs. CLAYTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, the cameras have gone, the news stories have ended, but for the people of eastern North Carolina, the misery and the suffering as a result of Hurricane Floyd is just beginning. The lives of thousands have been disturbed, disrupted and disordered. More than anything, what is now needed is help and hope for those storm-torn communities.

We expect to provide some of that help on Saturday, November 6. On that day, buses will be leaving Capitol Hill for a morning and afternoon of cleanup and an evening rally. We will help our fellow citizens prepare their homes and their communities for rebuilding, and we will join later then to urge them to hold on, to have a sense of hope. I invite my colleagues to go, to get on the bus with us. And if my colleagues are willing to lend their hands, their hearts and their support, I kindly request that they call my office, and I will be glad to provide them the information.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE TO HOLD HEARING TO INVESTIGATE INVOLVEMENT OF CASTRO REGIME IN TORTURING OF POWS

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on International Rela-

tions will hold a hearing to investigate the involvement of the Castro regime in the torturing of American prisoners of war in North Vietnam in 1967 and 1968. The atrocities committed by Castro's men in a prison camp known as "the Zoo" resulted in the death of Air Force Captain Earl Cobeil, one of the 19 POWs held captive there. The family of Captain Cobeil and the other POW airmen who were part of what was later called the Cuba Program deserve that their government do everything it can to bring the guilty individuals to justice. This hearing is an essential step in the probe and should pave the way for additional investigations by the Department of Defense, the FBI and other Federal agencies.

I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) for his tremendous support during the preliminary phase of this investigation. There should be no statute of limitations when it comes to bringing to justice international war criminals who brutally abused our U.S. military officers. I thank the gentleman from New York for his decision to hold this important hearing. It is a testament to his leadership and to his character.

BRING OLD RELIABLE BACK TO ITS PROPER THRONE

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, a 1992 law designed to save water said that the old standard 3½ gallon toilet must be replaced with a 1½ gallon streamlined job. It sounds good, but Americans have been flushing away ever since. It has gotten so bad there is now a black market on old reliables. It is no joke. Americans are getting potty fatigue flushing their own toilet.

If that is not enough, Members of the other side, to squeeze your Charmin, if you get caught flushing an old reliable in your own home, it is a \$2,500 fine.

Beam me up here. I say the nincompoop over at EPA who suggested this policy should go to a proctologist for a brain scan. Flush this.

I yield back all the constipation over this issue and urge us to bring old reliable back to its appropriate throne.

REPUBLICANS DELIVER ON PROMISE TO PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I do not understand our friends on the other side of the aisle. They come down here with a phony number saying that Republicans are dipping into the Social Security trust fund by \$13 billion. That is

not true, and they know it. Because if it were true, the Democrats would be down here trying to cut \$13 billion from the budget to save Social Security. But they are not. Instead, they are actually criticizing us for not spending more money.

So here is the position of our friends on the other side of the aisle in a nutshell. On the one hand, they say we are spending \$13 billion more than we should. On the other hand, they are saying we should be spending more. How is that for consistency?

Mr. Speaker, when this process is over, it will be clear to all that we Republicans have delivered on our promise to protect Social Security from being raided by our big-spending friends on the other side of the aisle.

UNMASK THE GOP

(Mr. CUMMINGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, as we near Halloween weekend, it is clear that the GOP has put on its mask and is ready for a masquerade ball where they can pretend to be who they are not. But masks come off at the end of the ball and will reveal that the true face of the GOP is one of hypocrisy.

Fortunately, unlike the GOP, the Democratic face is that of the American people. The Democratic face wants a budget that protects Social Security and pays our national debt, a prescription drug policy that provides prescription drugs for those who cannot afford them, 100,000 new teachers, 50,000 more police to combat crime.

Mr. Speaker, the Democrats understand as lawmakers, we are a reflection of the American people and should not attempt to alter that mirror image. And so I urge the GOP to leave their mask at home and try to wear the face of the American people.

VOTE "YES" TO SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. HILL of Montana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Speaker, day after day Members of both political parties have come to this floor and said that we must not invade the Social Security trust fund to spend on other programs. I have been among those. The President stood in this Chamber in the 1998 State of the Union Address and said, "Let's put aside 100 percent of Social Security for Social Security." I applauded those remarks at the time. But then the President sent proposal after proposal to this floor to spend those funds. When he did that, he was wrong and I stood against him.

In the next few days, every Member of this Chamber is going to have an op-

portunity to put their money where their mouth is.

The rubber is about to meet the road. In order to avoid spending part of Social Security, we are going to have to cut back a little bit on the spending bills. It is about 1 percent, more or less. The American people are going to be watching, because it is a simple test. If you are prepared to make the tough choice that is going to be required to protect Social Security, then you will vote "yes." But if your pledge to protect Social Security has been nothing but hollow rhetoric, then you are probably going to find some reason to vote "no." It is all boiling down to this one vote.

I am going to stand with America's seniors. I am going to stand with the folks who pay the Social Security taxes. I am going to fight for Social Security. I am going to vote "yes." America is going to be watching.

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PRIVACY

(Mr. LUTHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, financial services modernization legislation has emerged from conference committee, but unfortunately it lacks provisions that allow American consumers to keep financial institutions from distributing their personal private financial information. The bill is so riddled with loopholes that it would actually permit the telemarketing practice that outraged citizens in my home State of Minnesota and that our Attorney General Mike Hatch stopped.

It did not need to be this way, Mr. Speaker. Financial institutions need to move into the next century, but not at the expense of the American people, and we are here to represent the American people. It is not too much to ask that these institutions in the wake of an unprecedented opportunity to profit, that they respect their customers' privacy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Americans to contact their representatives in Congress and to stop this bill from passing.

WHITE HOUSE AND DEMOCRAT MINORITY NEED TO PUT THE BRAKES ON RUNAWAY SPENDING

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, just so there is no misunderstanding about what is really going on here, let us review for a moment tax cuts.

President Clinton and his liberal Democrat allies in the Congress has seen to it that working American families will not receive one red cent in tax reductions next year.

Spending cuts.

The President and his liberal friends here in the Congress have fought fiscal restraint at every turn. The President has vetoed spending bills because they spent too little, and the Democratic leadership here in the Congress has advocated even more pork barrel spending and more foreign aid spending, even at the expense of the Social Security Trust Fund.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the White House and the liberal Democratic minority in the Congress to put working Americans first for a change. It is time to put the brakes on runaway spending. It is time the President put the veto pen away and quit raiding the Social Security Trust Fund.

UNMASKING THE FAULTY RHETORIC

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, let us really unmask the Republican rhetoric. They can repeat over and over again that they are not spending the Social Security surplus, but let me just say this: we could put wheels on my grandmother, but we would not make her a wagon. I mean this is unbelievable; it is unimaginable what they are talking about here.

Mr. Speaker, their own accounting office, the Congressional Budget Office, has said that their budget spends \$13 billion from the Social Security Trust Fund. Instead of trying to strengthen Social Security, protect it for the future and not spend it, they are in fact at this moment deep into the Social Security surplus.

As my colleagues know, the baby boomers are going to retire soon. We need a strong Social Security system for those people who are enjoying it today and for those who need to have it for the future.

The budget that the Republican leadership has prepared does not allow for that reality, so we need to call this for what it is. I will tell my colleagues what they are doing. Not only are they spending our savings, they are doing it with projects that are out of step with the public priorities. They spend billions of dollars on military projects that the Pentagon does not want. They give billions to the corporate oil and gas industry.

Let us unmask this faulty rhetoric.

GARBAGE IN, GARBAGE OUT

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, again my colleague from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), to put it charitably, is confused. See, one of the oldest Washington tricks is to send the budgeteers